

HAS GROWN WONDERFULLY.  
(From Stillwater State.)  
The Wichita Eagle is giving a splendid service of war news, and is eagerly sought on the streets. The subscription list has grown wonderfully in this town.

# The Wichita Daily Eagle.

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## HANDS IT BACK

Government Releases the French Steamer Lafayette Captured Off Havana Yesterday.

## SHE HAD PERMISSION

To Touch at Havana—Orders Previously Sent to the Fleet Never Delivered—Event Excites Great Indignation in Paris.

Key West, Fla., May 6.—A 6:30 p. m.—Commodore Watson this afternoon received orders from Washington instantly to release the French mail steamer Lafayette and to send her to Havana under escort.

The capture of the Frenchman by the gunboat Annapolis turns out to have been an unfortunate incident, resulting from mistakes, but no protest has been made by the representatives of the French government in the United States. The officials here declare that this will close the affair.

It appears that before the Lafayette sailed for Havana the French legation in Washington was instructed to communicate with the state department. This was done and permission granted to the steamer to enter and discharge her passengers at Key West, and to proceed to Havana.

This afternoon United States Commissioner Otto, State's Attorney Stripling and a number of other federal officials went out to the Lafayette, examined her papers and cables the state department for instructions. These came without delay in the form of an order to Commodore Watson.

### LAFAYETTE'S PASSENGERS.

Of the 158 passengers on board the Lafayette 75 are for Havana, nearly all being young Spaniards, who say they are going to Cuba to engage in mercantile pursuits. One Cuban was aboard who was returning to join the insurgent army. He was sent to the islands several months ago but came within the terms of General Blanco's armistice just before the war began. He was overjoyed when told that he would be taken with the regular United States troops when they moved.

The local junta took him in charge and he leaves for Tampa tonight. The United States authorities who examined the Lafayette today say that so far as the ship's manifest shows, she carries no contraband of war; but with such an immense cargo it was impossible to make a thorough examination. They saw nothing in the nature of arms or ammunition on board.

Her release constitutes the first official act of Commodore Watson in his new command of this division of Admiral Sampson's fleet. He arrived on the Olney today and immediately went on board the cruiser Cincinnati, where he hoisted his flag.

A PANIC ON BOARD.  
The ships in the harbor boomed a commodore's salute of eleven guns this afternoon. This customary act of courtesy to a new commanding officer had no distressing effect on the Lafayette's passengers. The federal officials were dining with Captain Chapin at the time, and suddenly found themselves in the midst of a panic.

The Spaniards yelled that the enemy had opened fire and they scrambled about the decks to find places of shelter. Some of them burst frantically into the captain's cabin, where he was at dinner with his visitors, and begged the Americans to save their lives. One Mexican woman, wife of a Spaniard, was seized with a spasm when the Annapolis held up the Lafayette yesterday, duplicated the performance when the salute was fired, and for some time it was feared her life was in danger.

Commodore Remy arrived on the Massachusetts this afternoon. While nothing official can be learned as to whether he will take command of the second division of the fleet, it is said on good authority that his assignment is to assume control of the naval station here.

Commodore Remy will be in command of the naval base, including Key West and the Tortugas. He will raise his flag on the Massachusetts tomorrow.

The French steamer Lafayette was escorted out tonight by the gunboat Wilmington, in obedience to the orders of the navy department. The gun boat will accompany her beyond the blockade lines and then leave her free to enter Havana unmolested.

### THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

Washington, May 6.—An international difficulty connected with the French steamer Lafayette has been removed by the prompt release of the vessel, immediately upon notice of her capture reaching the state department. The explanation for this action on the part of the administration is given in the statement which follows, which was issued from the White House tonight:

It was decided that, without regard to the law of blockade, and as an act of courtesy, the request of the French government should be accepted. Orders were accordingly sent on the second day of May.

"When information was received of the capture of the steamer and of her having been brought to Key West, these orders were communicated to the captors with instructions to release the steamer and to see that the orders were duly followed, so that they might be carried into effect. No demand was made either by or on behalf of the French government, directly or indirectly, for the steamer's release."

### "THE WILMINGTON WILL ESCORT THE LAFAYETTE TO HAVANA TOMORROW."

### HOSTILE FEELING IN PARIS.

London, May 6.—A special dispatch from Paris says: "The seizure of the Lafayette has intensified the bitter feeling against the United States. Angry expressions are heard. The United States embassy is under special police protection in view of a possible hostile demonstration."

London, May 6.—The Paris correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: "The effect upon Paris of the seizure of the Lafayette is clear enough. Already a rather bitter feeling against the United States existed and this incident will certainly not tend to diminish it. If it is demonstrated eventually that there was nothing to justify the seizure, the government may be expected to make the very strongest protest."

"Some angry expressions are to be heard and arrangements have been made at the prefecture of police for the efficient protection of the United States embassy. The place is well guarded by policemen and detectives, in view of any possible hostile demonstration."

(The story of the capture of the Lafayette will be found on page 7.)

### MORET'S PLEA FOR MERCY

Spanish Colonial Minister Tries to Explain Things

Madrid, May 6.—In the congress, Senor Moret, minister for the colonies, in a speech regarded as the best in his political career, and repeatedly interrupted by enthusiastic cheering, insisted that the throne "occupied briefly by a young and promising monarch, and afterward by his widow and child, must not be blamed for the policy of different governments."

The responsibility existed, he declared, as the burden of all; and each should bear his share instead of trying to shift the blame to a neighbor. He defended autonomy as "granted to Cuba generously, under the friendly advice of the powers, in order to deprive the Americans of a pretext to foment discontent and rebellion." Autonomy, he maintained, had achieved conciliation and improved the economic situation. He pointed, as a proof of its success, above all others, to the "loyal friendship and assistance of the Cubans in the present war against the United States."

With regard to the question of unpreparedness, Senor Moret candidly confessed that he did not believe until the very last that war would come, as he considered the Americans were "incapable of attacking Spain without the slightest cause." But, "when convinced that the United States was bent upon despoiling Spain, then, with the entire cabinet, he seriously prepared to repel an unjust attack, purchasing and fitting out warships and procuring war material irrespective of cost," resolving to "make a strong stand and converting a peace-loving into a warlike cabinet."

In pathetic terms Senor Moret cleared himself of the charges of a press which was, he said, "trying to load all the sins of a nation upon him. He asserted that he yielded to none in patriotism and was always acting to secure what he thought best for his country's welfare. In conclusion he appealed to the patriotism of the nation and the chamber to "assist and advise the government in the defense of the rights and honor of Spain," a task which was "the work of all, with the collective after-responsibility of the minister to the cortes and the nation."

Senor Moret resumed his seat amid thunders of applause, deputies crowding around him, loading him with congratulations. Senor Cassot (editor of the Imparcial) withdrew his proposal for the impeachment of Admiral Bermejo, the minister of marine, and Admiral Beranger, minister of marine in the cabinet of the late Senor Canovas.

Admiral Bermejo in reply to a question, expressed the opinion that "it ought to have been possible to have repulsed the Americans at Manila."

Senor Moret challenged a direct vote of confidence, declaring that the government would resign if it were not carried.

### Colorado's Muster In.

Denver, Colo., May 6.—Captain E. F. Wilcox, U. S. A., this afternoon began mustering in one regiment of infantry and two troops of cavalry required of Colorado under the president's call for volunteers. The two infantry regiments of the Colorado National Guard have been consolidated into one and from the three troops of cavalry in the guard one has been formed. Both the infantry and the cavalry will be recruited tomorrow up to the maximum limit.

Hong Kong, May 6.—Prince Henry of Prussia arrived at Kiao Choo yesterday.

## SENIOR POLO SAYS THE WAR HAS ONLY BEGUN.

Toronto, Ont., May 6.—Senor Polo was seen today regarding the report that he has been called to Madrid by the Spanish government at the instance of Lord Salisbury. He characterized the report as absurd. He will leave tonight for Montreal where he will stay until he receives instructions. Senor Polo claims that the war has only begun.

## SPANIARDS BEHEAD AMERICAN NEWSPAPER MEN.

Chicago, May 7, 2 a. m.—A special dispatch to the Tribune from Tampa says that the party of three correspondents who, in company with Major Smith, of Gomez's body guard, started some time ago to interview General Gomez, have been captured by the Spaniards and beheaded. Nothing is known of the other members of the party and this news has not yet been confirmed.

## COMMODORE DEWEY HAS A BIG JOB ON HIS HANDS.

Washington, D. C., May 6.—After another day of waiting in the state and navy departments, the doors were again closed in the evening without a word from Commodore Dewey or any other reliable source as to what happened at Manila after the cable broke. During the course of the day there were rumors that the cable communication had been restored, but these were soon seen to be baseless and the excitement subsided. One comfort the officials take in the situation, although it is of a negative character, is that the lack of communication is a probable evidence that the Spaniards at least are not in control at Manila, else they would speedily communicate to the rest of the world through the cable. If the delay means anything it must be no more serious than the commodore has been delayed in carrying out fully his plans for the occupation of Manila. In other words, it may not have been possible for the commodore, within the short space of two days, to effect the destruction of the Spanish fleet, the silencing of the forts at Cavite, the seizure of Corregidor Island, the capture of Manila, and, finally, the restoration of cable communication. If he has been delayed beyond Tuesday or Wednesday in carrying out this extensive program it is not at all surprising that he has not been heard from through a dispatch boat.

## NEWS FROM DEWEY WILL BE RUSHED THROUGH.

Washington, May 6.—The state department is in close touch with Consul Wildman at Hong Kong, who is expected to supply the earliest possible news from the Philippines. The only message received from the consul today was one informing the department that four families of refugees from the Philippines had petitioned for admission to United States citizenship, something manifestly impossible for the consul to grant under the naturalization laws. It is barely possible that the first news to come may be through British sources, inasmuch as all British cable subventions contain a clause giving the British government the precedence in the use of the cable in an emergency.

## M'GULLOCH SAID TO HAVE GONE BACK FOR NEWS.

London, May 6.—The Exchange Telegram company asserts on the highest authority that the United States dispatch boat Hugh McCulloch, which reached Mrs Bay, near Hong Kong, a few days ago, heard of the victory of Commodore Dewey's squadron and hurried back to Manila for dispatches. It is further said that the McCulloch cannot get back to Hong Kong until tomorrow, when she is expected to have most important news.

## SAMPSON WILL HAVE A BATTLE TODAY OR TOMORROW.

Washington, May 6.—Respecting Admiral Sampson's movements, the department is still mute, although it is apparent that interesting news is expected on that subject within the next three days. Therefore it is quite certain that the rumor which originated in London to the effect that Sampson has undertaken a campaign in the Canaries, is dismissed without attracting attention at the hands of the officials, since it would be manifestly impossible for the admiral to arrive at the Canaries within so short a space of time as three days. Again, the monitors in his fleet could not carry coal enough to make the passage.

Moreover, the naval strategic board is not sending out notifications of contemplated strategic moves. A leading official said there was no reason why foreign nations should be given information of an attack on the Canaries. Since the United States was conducting a war, it had the right, he said, to choose its own points of attack without keeping other governments advised of its purposes.

## SAMPSON CAN GO CLEAR TO SPAIN IF HE DESIRES.

Washington, May 6.—There was considerable gratification evident at the cabinet session at the general war outlook. There was a strong belief that the Spanish fleet, instead of sailing across the seas to intercept the Oregon or to come over into the waters near home to begin operations, would be found eventually to be now progressing for some point closer to its own possessions on the other side of the ocean. While there is great reticence on the part of all the members of the administration on the subject, there is excellent authority for the statement that the instructions of Admiral Sampson give him great latitude.

## SPANISH WILL NOT DIVULGE THEIR WAR SECRETS.

Madrid, May 6.—8 p. m.—In the senate today Senor Puigcerver refused any explanations as to the war intentions of the government. In reply to a question whether measures had been taken in view of the industrial crisis due to the diminution in the stock of coal, Senor Puigcerver said the government was inquiring into the question and if necessary would prevent the exportation of coal. In the congress Senor Capdepon, minister of the interior, asked the deputies to suspend judgment as to the Manila engagement until detailed reports had been received.

## SPAIN PROTESTS THAT THE BLOCKADE IS NOT EFFECTIVE.

London, May 7.—The Copenhagen correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "Baron Wedel-Jarlsborg, the Scandinavian minister at Madrid, telegraphs that Spain intends to protest to the powers against the infringement against the international law in America's failure to make the Cuban blockade effective."

## TYING HIM UP

Senate Embarrasses McKinley By Threatening to Kill the Bond Issue.

## WOULD HALT THINGS

Funds Which Are Absolutely Necessary For the Execution of the Plans Mapped Out and If a Bond Issue Fails May Interfere Vtally.

Washington, May 6.—At the cabinet meeting today, besides the war situation in its general aspect, there was some discussion of the relative merits of persons seeking brigadier generalships and others commissions in the army. The president expressed himself very pronouncedly as opposed to the appointment to such responsible positions of those who have had no military experience.

One feature of the session was a discussion of the attitude of the senate in providing the "sinews of war" for defraying the expenditures of the war. The president has received positive information that the senate committee on finance which is struggling with the war revenue bill, will report that measure with the bond feature eliminated. This fact is causing the administration great uneasiness and embarrassment and the statement is made that the possibility of adverse action on the full body of the senate is a source of much anxiety.

The cabinet the information he had as to what is to be looked for from the senate, and while not expressing absolute confidence in favorable action by the senate with the bond feature reincorporated, he expressed the hope that there would be a satisfactory majority for the bond provision.

Should it not become a part of the law, many preparations for the war will have to be held back. The money to be secured from bonds, it is reported, is needed imperatively for the execution of the plans mapped out, and adverse action by the senate would be likely to interfere unless the money is otherwise provided, and by a speedy method such as the issuance of bonds.

### WHY CUBA IS NOT INVADIED

If Spain's Fleet Is Annihilated It Won't Be Necessary.

Washington, May 6.—One of two things must obviously be done in the present emergency, and our navy department is fully alive to the fact: Either the Spanish fleet now on its way westward from Cape Verde must be met on the high seas and annihilated, or we must seize Porto Rico and throw Spain's base of supplies back twenty-five hundred miles, a whole ocean's width.

The advice which has been urged upon the administration from the start by expert naval tacticians is beginning to be recognized at its true value. If a Spanish fleet enters West Indian waters it must have coal and other supplies, and some harbor in which to repair damages. It cannot get any of these, except, first, by taking one of our ports, and planting a force there large enough to hold it, an idea which is pronounced preposterous; or, second, by making Porto Rico its base. If we are to let a Spanish fleet come so far, therefore, we must capture Porto Rico. The only other alternative is to meet the fleet and destroy it. This our best naval officers declare we are prepared to do. On all sides the hope is strong that the fleet from Cape Verde may be heading for the West Indies, and seeking a chance for pitched battle with our ships.

Meanwhile we have established a patrol of our swiftest naval vessels and improved mechanisms to scour the coast line at a considerable distance out, and convey to headquarters the news of the approach of the Spanish ships from the east. There is still a nervous feeling over the possibility of some of the Spanish cruisers coming up the coast to do what damage they can, since the Spanish government despairs of being able to cope with us in a stand-up, face-to-face struggle.

The fleet squadron under Commodore Schley is kept in condition to sail at an hour's notice for any point from which danger is expected, and will give the Spaniards their first skirmish, while Rear Admiral Sampson's fleet is getting under way for the heavy work that is to follow.

In case we have our fight to a finish on the sea, the invasion of Cuba by any considerable body of troops will probably be abandoned altogether, and attention will be concentrated upon securing the island off from the rest of the world that the Spanish army there will have to surrender as an alternative to starvation, perhaps without the exchange of a dozen shots.

A great many efforts have been made to account satisfactorily for the failure of our first detachment of troops to start for Cuba on schedule time. In some quarters it was represented that a change of time had been rendered necessary by the leakage which had occurred and the exposure of our program to the enemy. Elsewhere the blame was thrown upon the navy department's selfishness in refusing the use of the warships necessary to defend the transports. Still another version threw the blame upon measures in not waiting supplies speedily enough.

The first two reasons are without foundation. The third has more to commend it. There has been some complaint in administration circles over the way congress has acted in requiring so much information at every stage before it would vote an appropriation; for what the average congressman knows soon becomes public property, and they are

many operations in view which would be utterly ruined by publicity.

But the real reason is that the plans for the preliminary expedition into Cuba were only half formed when their alleged outlines were given by the press. There was still a large question before General Miles as to the strength of the insurgent force which could be depended on for co-operation with our invading force, and hence whether the latter force ought not to be stronger than was at first proposed.

There is now a still stronger reason for moving with deliberation, in the question of the disposal of Spain's Cape Verde fleet.

### AWFUL BREAD RIOTS AGAIN

In Italy the Most Frightful Excesses are Common.

Rome, May 6.—There was renewed bread riots at Pavia yesterday. The rioters stretched chains across the streets in order to prevent cavalry charges. Several soldiers and civilians were injured.

A riotous mob surrounded a detachment of troops at Reggio Emilia and the soldiers fired a volley, killing three of their assailants and wounding four others.

There were fresh disorders at Prato, ten miles northwest of Florence, today. The extension of the bread riots to central and northern Italy, is regarded as a seriously serious feature of the case, because the people in that section are more enlightened and better educated and there would therefore be difficulty in suppressing agitation.

Some of the worst rioting has occurred at Pavia. Among the killed is a student, son of Signor Mussi, vice president of the chamber of deputies. The news of this has caused trouble at Milan, Signor Mussi being very popular there.

A conflict occurred between troops and rioters and one was killed on each side and many injured. At Prato and Florence there has been very serious trouble. The latter city has been very seriously troubled. It is believed that the censorship stops the worst news.

On Thursday a savage scene was witnessed at Murgo-Minervino, in Calabria. The rioters laid siege to a mill, whereupon the miller flung money into the crowd and begged that his life be spared. The mob shouted back: "It is not your money, but your skin we want." The mill was then stormed and the miller and his wife were brutally killed.

A physician who appeared at a neighboring window to protest against the brutality also fell a victim to the mob, and his wife, who was lying ill, died of fright. Another townsman was stabbed and beaten with hatchets until he died.

### INTERVENTION LAUGHED AT

Authorities Say There is Nothing to Intervene About.

Washington, May 6.—The London report that the continental powers were seeking to have England join them in intervention is lacking in verification in diplomatic quarters here. The state department has received no suggestion of such intervention and does not believe it is contemplated. The foreign representatives here, including those of Great Britain, France, Germany and Russia, met these reports with specific denials and declare that intervention is not being discussed in any way at the present time. These officials have been fully conversant with all previous moves towards intervention, and they doubtless would be aware if such a move was on foot at present.

The utterance of Emperor William before the reeling today condemned what the German officials have maintained from the first, namely, that Germany would observe strict neutrality, even though no decree of neutrality was issued. Russian officials take the news as to the purpose of Russia to keep out of any intervention which would be directed to the United States. The French authorities here do not consider intervention a liability at present and since France issued her decree of neutrality the French officials disavow reports that France will participate in intervention. The British officials have received no word concerning recent movements for intervention, and they consider such moves as quite impossible under existing circumstances. A leading member of the diplomatic corps said today:

"What would we intervene about? It could not be because the United States had completed the Philippines, because we do not yet know that the Philippines are completed. It could not be because Porto Rico may be occupied, for we have no official information yet that any movement against that island is contemplated. In fact, even if continental Europe decided to intervene, it has no facts before it thus far on which to base intervention."

The German embassy has been reinforced by the arrival of Captain Von Reuter, of the Imperial German navy, who becomes naval attaché to the embassy here. He called at the navy department today, wearing the full uniform and chaplain of the German navy. He presented credentials from the German admiralty which will insure him every proper facility for making observations. The German government thus will have Count Von Goertel to make military observations and Captain Von Reuter for naval observations.